

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of the Regular Board of Police Commissioners Meeting Thursday, April 13, 2006

The regular meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners was held on Thursday, April 13, 2006, at 6:30 p.m., at Hotel St. Regis, 3071 W. Grand Blvd, Detroit, Michigan 48202.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present

Erminia Ramirez
Jim Holley
Mohamed Okdie
Willie Hampton
Arthur Blackwell II

Department Personnel Present

Chief Ella M. Bully-Cummings
AC George A. Hall Jr.
AC Walter Martin
DC Robert Dunlap
DC Brenda Goss-Andrews
DC Ron Haddad
DC Joyce Motley
DC Billy McFarley
2nd DC James Tate
Cmdr. John Serda
Cmdr. Hope Facen-Berry
Cmdr. Duane McKissic
Cmdr. Todd Bettison
Cmdr. Fredrick McClure
Cmdr. Benjamin Lee
Cmdr. Troy Quinn
Cmdr. Hope Facen-Berry
Cmdr. James Suchowski
Cmdr. Herbert Moreland
Cmdr. James Tolbert
Cmdr. Shereece Fleming-Freeman
Lt. Herbert Myles
Sgt. Diane Benners
Sgt. Eren Stephens
Sgt. John Jenkins
Sgt. Debra Coklow
Sgt. Alan Quinn
Sgt. Shirley Jones
P.O. Sophia Nelms
P.O. Mary Baritche
P.O. Kevin King

P.O. Cory Soloman
P.O. David Kline
P.O. Scott Mackinzie
P.O. Ron Griffin
P.O. Almondo Greer-Travis
P.O. Richard Houser

Board Staff Present

Dante' L. Goss, Executive Director
Lawana Ducker, Personnel Director
Denise R. Hooks, Attorney/Supervising Inv. **(ABS)**
Arnold Sheard, Interim Chief Investigator
Victoria Scott-Miller, Senior Inv./Comm. Relations
P.O. Kent Cooper

OTHERS PRESENT

Ron Scott	Sandra Hines	Marie Zdunowski
Frank King	Gayle King	John Baritche
Joan Baritche	Shirley Houser	Richard Houser
Mack Betts	Stacey Moreland	Sharon Thompson
Zene Gibson	Kaila Elsasser	Edward Moore
Margaret Ford	Lori Waddles	Jean West
Jewel Ware	Ernest Johnson	Diane McMillan
Thomas Stidham	Lakesha Harris	Tana Morris
George Washington	Bobby Hardison	Charles Pugh
Kristine Davis		

RECORDERS

Terence Bell
Robert Brown

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Ramirez called the regular meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners to order at 6:48 pm.

Chairperson Ramirez acknowledged the presence of Board members and staff.

Chairperson Ramirez thanked Management and Ms. Pearl Cotton, Food and Beverage Supervisor of Hotel St. Regis, for hosting this community meeting. She acknowledged Jewel Ware, Chairperson of Wayne County Commissioners.

Comm. Holley read the duties and responsibilities of the Board of Police Commissioners.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOTION: **Comm. Holley** made the motion to approve the Minutes.

SECOND: **Comm. Blackwell** seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

3. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

RESOLUTIONS HONORING

Ms. Kalia Elsasser

WHEREAS Ms. Kaila Elsasser has been a resident of the city of Detroit for over three years; and

WHEREAS Ms. Elsasser has been an active member of the Central District (formerly the First Precinct) Community Relations for over three years, and has served as its President for two years. Under her leadership, membership in the organization continues to increase; and

WHEREAS Ms. Elsasser is responsible for managing commercial and residential properties, including the Palms Apartments in downtown Detroit. She was a General Manager of the Comfort Inn of Downtown Detroit for 3 years and while there, worked for the former 7th Precinct BUOY program; and

WHEREAS Ms. Elsasser has demonstrated a commitment to the community by embracing the citizens in the Central District and by working to make their quality of life as safe and comfortable as possible. She is an advocate for the Homeless Initiative that envisions a new concept for assisting homeless people in their effort to become whole again, a concept that is greatly received by the businesses in the Central District; and

WHEREAS Ms. Elsasser serves as the liaison between the citizens of the Central District and the city of Detroit's Public Lighting Department by personally working with Public Lighting to resolve citizens' complaints by tirelessly working to keep the lights operational for the protection of residents, police officers and visitors to the Downtown area; and

WHEREAS Ms. Elsasser is a voice for the Community Policing Officers in their efforts to implement Neighborhood Watch Programs and Citizens' Band Patrols,

and she also attends Crime Prevention Seminars with the officers, and assists the various neighborhood groups in becoming active in these endeavors; and

WHEREAS Ms. Elsasser implemented and spearheaded projects for Superbowl XL, Motown Winter Blast, Lunch for the Homeless at St. Aloysius Church, Keep Detroit Clean, Motor City Makeover, Angels' Night and many other projects to enhance our city. She also assisted the Detroit Police Department during the 1st Annual National Night Out for the former 1st Precinct.

WHEREAS Ms. Elsasser is living her dream of creating a real partnership between the citizens of the Central District and the members of the Police Department who serve in the Central District,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED That the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners, speaking for the citizens of the city of Detroit and the Detroit Police Department, acknowledges the dedication and generosity of Ms. Kaila Elsasser. Her tireless efforts and selfless service in improving the quality of life for all citizens in her community and throughout the city of Detroit, merits our highest regards.

We thank and congratulate you, Ms. Kaila Elsasser.

/s/ Erminia Ramirez
Chairperson

/s/ Rev. Jim Holley
Vice Chairperson

/s/ Mohamed Okdie
Commissioner

/s/ Willie Hampton
Commissioner

**ADOPTED BY THE
BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS
APRIL 13, 2006**

/s/ Arthur Blackwell, II
Commissioner

Chief Bully-Cummings presented Ms. Elsasser with the Spirit of Detroit Award on behalf of City Council.

Ms. Elsasser thanked everyone for recognizing her.

MOTION: **Comm. Blackwell** made the motion to approve the Minutes.

SECOND: **Comm. Holley** seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

4. SECRETARY'S REPORT – EXEC. DIR. GOSS

OFFICE CLOSING

The Board of Police Commissioners' Office and the Office of the Chief Investigator will be CLOSED on the following day:

- Friday, April 14, 2006, in observance of Good Friday Holiday.

CITIZEN COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
2006 - Weekly Count of Complaints:	24	349
2005 - Weekly Count of Complaints:	32	365

- The Office of the Chief Investigator (OCI) closed a total of 32 cases this week.
- The Office of the Chief Investigator submitted 3 cases to the Chief's Office.
- The Chief's Office has reviewed and returned 2 cases to OCI.

5. PRESENTATION/REPORT-CHIEF OF POLICE

April 13, 2006

Volume 2, Issue 15

Detroit Police Department

Report to the Board of Police Commissioners



Special points of interest:

• Next meeting:

Thursday, April 20, 2006
@3:00 P.M.

Detroit Police Headquarters
1300 Beaubien
Detroit, Michigan 48226

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“Building a Safer Detroit Through Community Partnerships”

The Detroit Police Department is committed to uphold its mission to provide a safe environment for our residents and businesses. This effort is not possible without the joint commitment of the community and the Police Department. We appreciate and value the role our citizens have played in helping us to take the guns and drugs off the streets of the city of Detroit.

SPECIAL ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

Narcotics/ Gang Enforcement

During the period of April 3, 2006 through April 9, 2006, Narcotics /Gang Enforcement conducted 33 search warrants and 39 street enforcement actions within the boundaries of the city of Detroit, resulting in the following arrests and confiscations:

- 40 Felony arrests
- 117 Misdemeanor arrests
- 3 Juveniles detained
- 41,649.20 grams of cocaine, 73.4 grams of heroin, 1,085.00 grams of marijuana and 191 pills, street value:
- **\$16,798,050.00**
- **\$48,178.00** in U.S. Currency

Confiscated:

- 20 Handguns

Special Response Team

On April 5th, officers of the Special Response Team conducted patrol operations in the Eastern District. As a result of their enforcement efforts, it resulted in three (3) Felony arrests for “Home Invasion.”

BLOOD DRIVE

The Central District will be sponsoring a “BLOOD DRIVE” in conjunction with the “AMERICAN RED CROSS” on Monday April 17th from 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. in the Detroit Police Department GYM located at 1300 Beaubien “Headquarters.”

** PLEASE JOIN US AND GIVE BLOOD TO SOMEONE IN NEED **

Engaging the Community

8th Candle Light Vigil

Police Headquarters
1300 Beaubien
Detroit, Michigan 48226
@7:00 a.m.
May 3rd

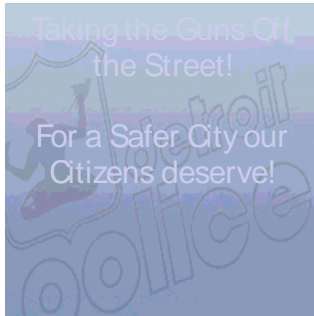
 **American Red Cross**
Blood Services



April 13, 2006

Police / Community Intervention

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Western District

Community Crime Walk

Western District
1441 West Seven Mile
Detroit, Michigan 48203
Saturday @ @1:00 p.m.
April 22nd

For more info please call: 313-596-5100

Northeastern Investigative Operations

On April 9th, officers of the Northeastern District received information and a description of an individual on an "Attempt Carjacking/Person Armed with a Shotgun" in the area of Van Dyke and E. Outer Drive. Due the officers quick response, along with the assistance of the Vice Unit; further investigation resulted in two (2) individuals being arrested and charged with "Assault with Intent to Rob while Armed," and "Felony Firearm."

Northeastern District

Community Anti-Crime Walk.

"Speak Up"

"Let's Take a stand for What's Right"

Rose of Sharon C.O.G.I.C.
1799 E. State Fair
Detroit, Michigan 48234
Saturday 10 a.m.– 2:00 p.m.

April 15th

Free T-Shirts/Handouts/Refreshments



Central District

On April 2nd, officers of the Central District were on patrol in the area of Woodward and Elizabeth. Officers received information and a description of the individual carrying a handgun. As a result of their investigation and after a brief foot chase, one (1) man was arrested and charged with "Felon in Possession," "Carrying a Concealed Weapon," "Felony Firearm," and "Habitual 2nd." Confiscated was a handgun.

Southwestern District

Community Anti-Crime Walk

"Taking Back Our Streets"

Neighbors Helping Neighbors

Third New Hope Baptist Church
12850 Plymouth Road
Detroit, Michigan 48204

April 22nd

Registration starts at 11:30 a.m.

Anti-Crime Walk starts at 1:00 p.m.

For more Info please call: 313-596-5216

Chief Bully-Cummings presented a Certificate of Recognition to Mr. Charles Pugh for unyielding support of the Detroit Police Department.

C. Pugh thanked the Detroit Police Department and the City of Detroit for the recognition.

6. QUARTERLY AWARDS-PUBLIC INFORMATION

Chief Bully-Cummings stated these officers go out everyday against all odds and do incredible things. She stated this department is comprised of officers and civilians, and this success is depended upon a partnership between both.

2nd DC James Tate presented Quarterly Awards to the Following:

C. Pugh presented the Awards for the Northwestern District.

Civilians

Mr. Robert Grant

Police Officers

Mary Baritche, Central District; Kevin King, Southwestern District; Almondo Greer-Travis, Northwestern District; Scott Mackenzie, Eastern District; Corey Soloman, Northeastern District; David Kline, Central District, Richard Houser, Northwestern District.

7. PRESENTATION/REPORT –CENTRAL DISTRICT

Chairperson Ramirez recognized State Senator Hansen Clark.

Chief Bully-Cummings introduced all of the Assistant Chiefs', Deputy Chiefs', and Commanders.

Cmdr. Fleming-Freeman gave a brief overview of the Central District and current endeavors. He also introduced his staff members.

The Central District encompasses 8 square miles and has approximately 100,000 people, and has 38 schools including (6) high schools, (4) parochial schools, and (3) colleges.

The Central District has undertaken the following initiatives to reduce crime:

- The Cobra Units, Community Relations Officers and Patrol Officers conduct wrap around operations of addresses within the District, which Narcotics have raided or which have been known to be a narcotic location.
- The Community Relations Officers have distributed crime alert bulletins to all of the businesses in the Central District, given safety reports and tips at block club meetings, conducted security surveys for homeowners and businesses and the U-Turn Program, a youth program which is designed to deter kids from criminal activity.
- Foot patrols with Harmony Park, Greektown, and the Financial District have stepped up efforts in enforcing observed violations and assisting businesses as needed.
- Fixed surveillance has been established in the areas with higher incidents of criminal activity, which has resulted in multiple arrests.
- Upcoming events are Police Week and National Night Out, which are designed to increase safety awareness in the community and foster a better relationship between Police and the citizens.

The Central District has implemented a CB Radio patrol and six (6) neighborhood watch and three (3) apartment watch programs. In addition, the Central District will continue to seek opportunities to work with citizens in an effort to reduce crime and improve the neighborhood.

8. OTHER BUSINESS

Comm. Blackwell stated that the department will recall 100 officers by end of the fiscal year.

Chief Bully-Cummings stated 30 letters will go out this week for the recall.

9. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, April 20, 2006 @ 3:00 p.m.
Police Headquarters, Room 328-A
1300 Beaubien
Detroit, MI 48226

10. ORAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

S. Moreland stated we need to weed out the bad officers. She stated two officers arrested her stating she was interfering with an investigation and she wasn't allowed to make a telephone call.

Chairperson Ramirez asked Ms. Moreland to speak with Interim Chief Investigator (ICI) Sheard.

S. Hines stated she is a spoke person for Amnesty International, an organization that records the pattern and police misconduct toward gays and lesbians. She stated they have received numerous of calls for police brutality against these individuals.

L. Harris stated a young man shot her. She went to the Northeastern District and spoke to Sgt. Gibson who did not take her complaint seriously and was disrespectful.

Chairperson Ramirez asked Ms. Harris to speak with Exec. Dir. Goss.

Comm. Holley asked the chairperson to explain to the audience what is taking place.

Chairperson Ramirez stated that our Chief Investigator will be taking all of the information and giving it to an investigator who will contact them for more information on the compliants.

T. Morris stated she filed a compliant against two officers for harassing her by driving on the opposite side of the street as they approached her. She stated she felt that she had the right of way.

Chief Bully-Cummings stated it depends on the circumstances.

Comm. Blackwell stated we need to investigate this matter and look at the in-car video.

T. Morris stated OCI told her it will take 7-10 days.

Chairperson Ramirez stated that's the normal time frame and for Ms. Morris to speak with ICI Sheard.

T. Stidham stated he is here representing 21 DPD authorized towing companies. He stated they are a diverse group of African Americans, Hispanics, Caucasians, Native Americans, Latinos, and Lebanese. He received from a directive from the Mayor's office stating that all abandoned cars in all districts will only be towed by Boulevard and Trumbull companies. It also states the reassigned of towing responsibility for all districts. He stated this effectively creates a one company monopoly for towing.

Chairperson Ramirez asked does the City receives and compensation from the towing companies?

T. Stidham the City receives money from the auction of the vehicles.

Comm. Holley asked when did you receive this directive?

T. Stidham it is dated March 29, 2006.

Comm. Holley asked the Chief was this an RFP?

Chief Bully-Cummings stated she has no idea of the directive that Mr. Stidham is referring to.

T. Stidham stated it is dated March 28th and states it is effective immediately.

Comm. Blackwell asked who is it addressed to?

T. Stidham stated it's from the Mayor's office, to a specific person at Police Headquarters.

Comm. Blackwell stated it's a name you rather not mention, asked is the specific person in authority?

T. Stidham stated yes, sir absolutely.

Comm. Blackwell asked are you saying this directive specifically talks about abandoned cars?

T. Stidham stated it talks about two things, one is the abandoned cars, and the second is an adjustment to the all towing rotation in the City of Detroit.

Comm. Blackwell stated he only heard him read about abandoned cars and not rotation.

T. Stidham stated the paper identifies each district and towing companies within those districts.

Comm. Blackwell stated that companies a plural word. He asked does it mention one company per district or does it mention several.

T. Stidham stated with respect to the assignment of responsibilities it mentioned several.

Comm. Blackwell stated it's a little different than what you previously said. There are several companies that are involved in the towing rotation program. Do they list the companies?

T. Stidham stated yes, sir.

Comm. Blackwell asked are there more than two companies?

T. Stidham stated yes, sir.

Comm. Blackwell stated there are multiple companies doing towing, and your interest is that one company is doing abandoned cars.

T. Stidham stated he has two issues: that one company is doing abandoned cars and the second issue that this directive seems to be making. He stated the districts have resulted in favoring Boulevard Towing companies. He stated there are 29 towing companies and he represents 21 of them and the other 8 belong to Boulevard and Trumbull Towing.

Comm. Blackwell stated you said that this Board has a responsibility; there are no police contracts that we actually vote on. If you are coming for a policy issue this is the place to come. He stated when he first arrived on this Board there were towing policy issues, the companies that you represent that never came before us. He asked how the contract was issued to the 21 companies that you represent and was there an RFP or were they voted on by the City Council?

T. Stidham stated it's difficult to answer that question.

Comm. Blackwell stated this is a real difficult setting to get some of the information and not all of it.

T. Stidham stated each of the contracts involved different periods of time and circumstances.

Comm. Blackwell asked if they had them for a long time?

T. Stidham stated some have had them for 40 years.

Comm. Blackwell stated you are telling me a minority company has had a towing contract for 40 years.

T. Stidham stated yes, sir.

Comm. Blackwell stated minorities had just started to get on the police force 30 years ago.

T. Stidham stated those individuals have told me they have been towing for 40 years.

Comm. Blackwell stated he would like to meet and congratulate those individuals. He stated maybe we ought to look at the process and put the whole thing out for a RFP.

Chairperson Ramirez stated to Mr. Stidham she has allowed him more than two minutes and he can speak with Comm. Blackwell after this meeting.

Comm. Holley stated Mr. Stidham is reading a memo and the Chief is not aware of it. He wanted to know if it's possible to get her a copy.

G. Washington stated he owns Washington Towing and has been towing in the City since 1957 with a lot of turmoil.

Comm. Blackwell asked were there any other minority companies with you in 1957?

G. Washington stated no.

Comm. Blackwell stated this is City work, normally all City work gets bided out by RFP for a competitive bid.

Comm. Holley stated it seems like they have been struggling.

G. Washington stated it's hard for him to compete when someone is getting \$200 dollars and he is getting \$75 dollars.

Comm. Blackwell stated we want a fair and open process to see what is really happening.

B. Hardison stated his company along with other companies have been having problems with no one to listen. Since the redistricting he was moved downtown. He is not allowed to tow at the court parking, Comerica Park, and Ford Field. The only company allowed to tow is Boulevard and Trumbull Towing.

Comm. Blackwell asked when that change took effect?

B. Hardison stated October 11, 2005.

Comm. Blackwell asked prior to that you were able to get rotation?

B. Hardison stated that's correct.

Comm. Blackwell asked Mr. Hardison how he got his contract?

B. Hardison stated he was selected.

Comm. Blackwell stated the City selected you, but you didn't have to bid?

B. Hardison stated there is no bid process.

Comm. Blackwell stated we need to look at this process, it seem like they were making a living even when things been unfair before October 11, 2005.

Chairperson Ramirez stated we will look into it.

K. Davis stated she had written a letter to the Board about one company getting all of the towing. She wants to get an answer if the rumor is true.

Comm. Blackwell stated that the Mayor would not put out a directive without the Chief knowing about it. He stated we want to get to the bottom of it.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

DANTE' L. GOSS
Executive Director
Board of Police Commissioners

DLG/rb